

# The Ugliest Girl in Provo

Or

## How Bridal Veil Falls Got Its Name

by Judy Wiscombe Grow

Hannah Sutterwaite was the ugliest girl in Provo in 1888. Not just homely—real ugly.

"Hannah sure is ugly," folks would say. "Sure a good thing her Pa's got money," they'd say. Folks always said these things together, seein' as how they was thinkin' about marriage—for Hannah, that is.

When Hannah was little, most the kids laughed at her. The out-loud laughin' quieted down as she got older and folks got more civilized and polite. One peculiar thing though that couldn't be denied was Hannah's effect on horses. Everytime she'd walk past a horse he'd start rearin' and buckin'; pretty soon Hannah found herself making lots of detours just so she'd avoid runnin' into a horse that might upset it's rider or turn over a wagon.

Now Hannah was real brave about all her misfortune and knew quite well her limitations. So when Lettie Sanders and Annie Greenfield asked her with a snicker if she was going to enter the "Miss Spend July 4th in Provo in 1888" contest she just smiled and said, "No, not this year," although she did enter an essay in the "I'm Proud of What my Heritage Has Done For Me" contest which took second place.

Now, as I mentioned before, Hannah's Pa was rich. He really

was. Why, he owned lots of property in the south of town that people was buying like hot cakes to build their houses on. He also had a half interst in Hansen's Livery Stable and the whole interest in Sutterwaite's Feed and Supply and Sutterwaite's Hotel, plus lots of stocks in some high-flyin' company in the East and oh, one more thing. Old Jack Sutterwaite owned a waterfall. Yes sir, his very own-Splashy Falls in Provo Canyon which was about Hannah's most favorite possession that her Pa had. Hannah would spend a lot of time just lookin' at those falls and sometimes splashin' in the spray. She's even named them herself—Splashy Falls—which most folks thought was kind of an unoriginal name and couldn't figure how come Hannah did so good on that essay contest.

Well, as fate would have it, a nice young man moved to Provo in October of 1888 lookin' to start a hardware business with a little money he'd inherited from his dead uncle. Some how he saw right past the features of Hannah's homely face and proposed marriage for that next spring. A few ornery folks still whispered it was Papa's money that was the main calling card but anybody with brains could see that young Warren's face really lit up every-time he looked in Hannah's mus-

tard-colored eyes.

The date was set for June 4th and nearly everybody who was anybody was invited. Everybody who was invited was real pleased on account of this was to be no ordinary wedding. Hannah, being so fond of her Splashy Falls, had decided that the wedding would take place at 5:00 p.m. at the base of those falls and then everyone would travel in a caravan-like procession down the canyon to the Stockmen's Association Hall for supper and dancing.

As I heard it told, Hannah was bubbling around the house just days before the wedding counting the hours 'til she was Mrs. Warren Fenster when she suddenly remembered the antagonism held for her by all the horses. Breaking into tears she ran all the way to Sutterwaite's Feed dodging horses all the way to sob her story to her Pa. Now old Frank was smart enough to know that this might be Hannah's last chance (and besides the fact he loved her like a daughter) so he told her not to worry that he's figure out something.

Figure out something, he did. About 10:00 on the morning of the wedding young Jimmy Collins the delivery boy for Sutterwaite's Feed visited the homes of all the people invited to the wedding, dropping off at each house a veil to be attached to all the bridles of all the horses to be used that day. They were made out of white net so's the horse could see through it enough to walk but not real distinct to see Hannah's features.

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Well, it worked like a charm. The horses didn't pay no mind to Hannah and they all looked kind of festive what with each horse lookin' like the next with those white veils.

The wedding was a big success and right then started a new tradition. Hannah may of still called them falls Splashy Falls, but everybody else after that called them Bridle Veil Falls after the veiled bridles.

And what about Hannah and Warren? They was married for years and years and had four daughters—all ugly. It's a good thing their Pa's got money.

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